



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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TO LEA Superintendents

FROM June Atkinson *jsa*

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT PROPOSALS UNDER THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S *READ TO ACHIEVE* LAW

SBE Motion for Alternative Assessments Submitted for Approval

At its February monthly meeting, the State Board of Education approved several requests from local school districts to use alternative assessments under *Read to Achieve*, G.S. §115C-83.1C, provided that these requests are subject to compliance with the following conditions:

1. "the request has been approved by the local board of education and is signed by the local board chair; and
2. the request contains a statement verifying that the local board of education has determined that the requested Alternative Assessment is a valid and reliable standardized assessment of reading comprehension and demonstrates that a student is reading at or above the third grade level as required by the *Read to Achieve* law." (See Attachment 1).

For LEAs approved at the February meeting, please send your letter to Carolyn Guthrie at carolyn.guthrie@dpi.nc.gov.

Approved Options

Alternative Assessments that were approved subject to these conditions include:

1. Discovery Education Level 3 or 4;
2. Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) by the Northwest Evaluation Association with Rasch Unit (RIT) Score of 197 or higher;
3. STAR Reading with normal curve equivalent of 50+ or Instructional Reading Level of 3.0 or higher;
4. ClassScope/SchoolNet – Benchmark EOG 3 specifications at 70 percent or higher;
5. iStation Indicators with benchmarks of 3rd grade proficiency;
6. Iowa Test of Basic Skills score at or above 50th percentile;
7. CASE Assessments scoring at level 3 or above; and
8. Study Island with benchmark assessments of 70 percent or higher.

Some school districts have combined more than one of the above-listed measures. Other districts are using passages from local end-of-quarter assessments.

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

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**mCLASS:Reading 3D
Option**

The State Board of Education's motion gives the responsibility to the local board of education for determining whether an assessment is valid and reliable. If your LEA decides to use mCLASS:Reading 3D in 2013-14, then your local board must affirm its reliability and validity. Attached is mCLASS' information from Amplify, the developer. (Attachments 2, 3, and 4)

**Next Steps for Those
Wanting to Submit
Alternative
Assessments**

Should your school district decide to use an alternative assessment as another tool of determining whether a student meets the 3rd grade reading standard, you must follow the conditions set forth in the Second Motion on Attachment 1. Also, send your proposal directly to Carolyn Guthrie at carolyn.guthrie@dpi.nc.gov.

**SBE Waiver
Authority**

The State Board also received requests to modify DIBELS, the length of summer camp, and the number of passages required for the portfolio option. While I understand your reasons for making these requests, the General Assembly's *Read to Achieve* law does not give the State Board the authority to waive these statutory requirements. I am hopeful, however, that the General Assembly may make some changes, especially as it relates to summer camps.

JSA/jlw

Attachments 1, 2, 3, 4

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